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**P37 SEXUAL BEHAVIORS OF KIVIRCIK EWES HAVING
DIFFERENT LEVEL OF RECEPTIVITY INDEX**

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ABSTRACT

Reproduction is important for sheep breeding since the greatest part of the income in sheep farming is supplied through lamb production. One of the most important determinants of successful reproduction is the willingness and ability of animals to display adequate levels of sexual behaviour. The present study was performed to investigate the alterations in the frequencies of some sexual behaviours displayed around the time of estrus by Kivircik ewes having Low, Medium and High level of receptivity index (RI). The effects of different levels of RI on attractivity, proceptivity and some estrus parameters were also investigated.

During the breeding season, 43 Kivircik ewes were synchronized with intravaginal sponges impregnated with 30 mg FGA left for 12 days plus an injection of 600 IU PMSG at the time of sponge removal. Behavioral observations were performed at 8 hours intervals starting at 16 h following sponge removal. During the observation periods ewes were introduced to rams one by one, and sexual behaviour of each ewe was video-recorded for 3 min. After the evaluation of video-records the ewes were divided into three subgroups (Low, RI < 50%; Medium, RI = 50-80%, and High, RI > 80%) according to their RI level.

The differences among groups in terms of estrus onset, estrus duration, average attractivity and average proceptivity were not significant statistically ($P > 0.05$). Frequencies of urination and vocalisation behaviours during the receptive period were lower than those recorded at 8 h before, and 8 h after the receptive period. The frequency of non firm standing behaviour was similar both at the receptive period and at the previous observation period.

It is concluded that the level of receptivity index does not have any significant effect on attractivity, proceptivity, and some other sexual behaviours in Kivircik ewes. A ewe with low receptivity index display adequate level of sexual behaviour as a ewe with high receptivity index does.

Key words: Kivircik ewe, sexual behavior, receptivity index, attractivity, proceptivity